

11 JULY 1976

PAB - 33

## U.S. Embassy in Moscow

# Stand on Radiation Defended

By Don Oberdorfer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger yesterday defended U.S. negotiations with the Soviet Union about microwave bombardment of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, saying the United States took "very strong action" when radiation levels there soared late last year.

In guarded remarks that referred without elaboration to "many complicated issues" in the embassy radiation case, Kissinger ducked comment on reports that U.S. electronic surveillance is an element in the problem.

"Timidity or concern (about) our overall relations with the Soviet Union has not been a factor in this. We have had to balance various advantages and disadvantages for the United States, and we have had to pay primary attention to the health of our employees," he told a news conference. He did not say explicitly what the U.S. "advantages" are.

Reports that have never been officially confirmed indicate that the Soviet Union has been beaming microwaves at the embassy for more than 15 years in an effort to intercept U.S. communications or to interfere with U.S. electronic eavesdropping devices located on the embassy roof.

"The intensity of the (Russian) signal did not reach proportions that required concentrated action until the second half of last year," Kissinger said. He did not specify the "very strong action" that the United States took at that time, but suggested that "counteraction" and "retaliation"—presumably against listening devices atop the Soviet embassy in Washington—had been considered.

A State Department declaration last Wednesday that the Moscow radiation had been reduced was the first

substantive comment on the touchy problem after months of official silence and extensive discussions with the Russians.

Kissinger conceded yesterday that for a time last year the radiation at the U.S. embassy in Moscow had exceeded the permissible level under Soviet safety standards. This level, unofficially reported at 18 microwatts per cubic centimeter, has now been reduced to less than 1 microwatt per cubic centimeter, according to the State Department.

The maximum safety level for microwave radiation under Soviet regulations is 10 microwatts per cubic centimeter. The U.S. safety level is 10,000 microwatts per cubic centimeter, 1,000 times higher. Soviet standards take into account a wider range of possibly harmful radiation effects than do U.S. standards.

The United States has "demanded" that the Russians stop the microwave bombardment entirely but the Soviet Union has not done so, Kissinger said.

In other comments at his news conference—his first in Washington since April 22—Kissinger said:

• The United States is preparing to ask for a United Nations resolution against international terrorism, with the support of other U.N. Security Council members if possible. He said, "We have no second thoughts" about praising the

Israeli commando raid a week ago to rescue Jewish hostages in Uganda.

• The foreign policy statements of the apparent Democratic presidential nominee, Jimmy Carter, have been "fairly consistent" in their main outline with existing U.S. policy, although there have been "some hints ... with which we would disagree."

• The "technical possibility" exists for an Italian government to be constituted without the participation of the Communist Party there, and U.S. concern about Communist participation remains unchanged.

• Only two major issues—the Soviet Backfire bomber and the U.S. cruise missile—are standing in the way of "fairly rapid progress" toward conclusion of another Strategic Arms Limitation talks agreement. No active negotiations are taking place at present.